

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 IO-13 MCT-01  
ACDA-07 EB-07 /096 W  
----- 105825 /46

R 231052Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 589

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 12714

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, MASS, IR  
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH MFA ON  
NEW FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT (FAA REQUIREMENTS)

SUMMARY: AT REQUEST MFA, POLCOUNS AND POLOFF HANDLING  
HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS BRIEFED MFA FOURTH POLITICAL (AMERICAN)  
DEPARTMENT ON NEW SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION AND  
POTENTIAL IMPACT ON IRAN. DISCUSSION WENT BEYOND TECHNICAL  
DETAILS TO PHILOSOPHY OF NEW LEGISLATION, U.S. CONGRESSIONAL  
ATTITUDES, AND IRANIAN APPROACHES TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS.  
EMBOFFS CONSISTENTLY TOOK LINE THAT WHAT, IF ANYTHING, TO DO  
ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IS GOI DECISION WHILE EMBASSY PREPARED  
TO BE HELPFUL TO EXTENT GOI DESIRES AND PROVIDES RELEVANT  
INFORMATION. END SUMMARY.

1. AT SPECIFIC INVITATION OF FOURTH POLITICAL DEPARTMENT  
HEAD HATEF, POLCOUNS LAMBRAKIS AND STEMPEL BRIEFED HIM AND  
THREE OTHER OFFICERS ON NEW PROVISIONS OF FAA RELATING TO  
HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING AND POSSIBLE CUTOFFS OF MILITARY  
SALES. DISCUSSION DEALT BOTH WITH FAS LEGISLATION AND  
MORE PHILOSOPHICAL ASPECTS OF PROBLEM. HATEF HAD READ  
COPY OF COMMITTEE PRINT, "HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN", WHICH  
COVERED FRASER HEARINGS AUGUST 3 AND SEPTEMBER 8, 1976,  
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AND ASKED EMBOFFS FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES. WOULD APPRECIATE  
DEPARTMENT POUCHING FIVE COPIES THIS DOCUMENT.

2. MEETING OPENED WITH REVIEW OF U.S. LEGISLATIVE  
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, DEADLINES, AND ROLE ENVISAGED  
FOR NEW COORDINATOR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

IN STATE DEPARTMENT. HATEF INQUIRED IF LATTER WOULD HAVE ASSISTANTS WHO WOULD TRAVEL TO COUNTRIES SUCH AS IRAN TO GATHER INFORMATION. EMBOFFS REPLIED IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO KNOW WHAT MAY DEVELOP, BUT FOR THE PRESENT REPORTS WERE PREPARED IN THE DEPARTMENT ON THE BASIS MAINLY OF EMBASSY REPORTING. HATEF ASKED WHAT CONGRESS COULD DO IF STATE DEPARTMENT SHOULD REPORT FAVORABLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN A COUNTRY SUCH AS IRAN. WOULD THESE REPORTS SUFFICE? EMBOFFS POINTED TO CERTIFICATION OPTION THAT LAW PROVIDES FOR SECRETARY OF STATE AS ADDITIONAL INPUT. HATEF NEVERTHELESS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CONGRESSMEN AND STAFFERS MIGHT PREJUDGE A COUNTRY AND DISREGARD STATE DEPARTMENT VIEWS IN FAVOR OF "INACCURATE REPORTING" SUCH AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S OR ICJ'S. HATEF POINTED TO MULTIPLE INACCURACIES IN BUTLER ICJ REPORT ALONG LINES TEHRAN 6119 (BUT MORE COMPREHENSIVELY), AND COMMENTED THAT IT IS SAD SOME CONGRESSMEN GIVE CREDENCE TO INSTANT "EXPERTS" RATHER THAN OFFICIAL, BETTER-RESEARCHED REPORTING. EMBOFFS RESPONDED THAT CONGRESSMEN NECESSARILY REVIEW VAST NUMBERS OF REPORTS AND ARE THEMSELVES USED TO DEALING ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION WHICH MAY NOT BE ACCURATE IN EVERY RESPECT BUT CONTAINS INFORMATION WHICH THEY CONSIDER PERSUASIVE, OR AT LEAST WORTH INVESTIGATING. HOWEVER, STATE DEPARTMENT APPEARS TO BE MAINTAINING ITS CREDIBILITY WITH CONGRESS--AS WITNESS GOOD CONGRESSIONAL RECEPTION OF ATHERTON AND HABIB TESTIMONIES (OF WHICH COPIES HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO MFA). EMBOFFS NOTED HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM IS IMPORTANT AND A SERIOUS CONCERN, BUT RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE IN BOTH GOVERNMENTS NEED NOT PANIC. POINT IS, NEW FAA LEGISLATION UNDERLINES HEIGHTENED CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST

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AND REQUIRES MORE EMBASSY REPORTING. THE MORE INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE WASHINGTON, THE BETTER OFF EVERYBODY WILL BE.

3. HATEF WAID HE PERSONALLY FAVORED PROVIDING MAXIMUM INFORMATION, BUT GOI SECURITY OFFICERS NOT SIMILARLY INCLINED. EMBOFFS SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF TRYING TO DISTINGUISH MORE CLEARLY IN STATISTICS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION BETWEEN THOSE CONVICTED OF TERRORISM AND THOSE IN JAIL FOR CRIMES NOT INVOLVING VIOLENCE ("CRIMES OF CONSCIENCE"), WHETHER THESE BE MARXISTS OR OTHERS. THERE THEN FOLLOWED DISCUSSION OF: (A) PROBLEMS SECURITY FORCES HAVE IN DEALING WITH DETAINEES WHERE TIMELY INTERROGATION MAY PRODUCE INTELLIGENCE TO BLUNT FORTHCOMING TERRORIST THREATS; (B) IRANIAN USE OF PREVENTIVE ARREST WHERE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS PERSON OR GROUP ABOUT TO COMMIT CRIME; AND (C) PROBLEMS POSED WHERE PROFESSOR OR ARTIST IS ACCUSED OF COMMUNISM OR OF ASSISTANCE TO TERRORISM AND INCARCERATED, BUT NO INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE,

THUS GIVING GOI OPPONENTS AN OPEN FIELD. HATEF SAID GOI COULD CHALLENGE ITS DETRACTORS SUCH AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ON ALMOST ALL CASES OF TORTURE ALLEGED THUS FAR BUT SECURITY OFFICIALS DID NOT WANT TO LET OUTSIDERS HAVE CURRENT ADDRESSES OF THESE FORMER PRISONERS, CITING NEED TO PROTECT THEIR SOURCES AND EVEN IN SOME CASES TO PROTECT PERSONS OF THOSE RELEASED WHOM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ALLEGED WERE STILL IN JAIL. EMBOFFS NOTED THIS DIFFICULTY, BUT ALSO PUBLIC RELATIONS RISKS INVOLVED IN COMPLETE SECRECY. HATEF AGREED.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TEHRAN 12714

4. EMBOFFS SPOKE OF CUMULATIVE IMAGE PROBLEM, SAYING ORGANIZATION LIKE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BUILDS CREDIBILITY BY PROVING ONE OR TWO CASES IN ONE COUNTRY, WITH EFFECT THAT ITS WORD IS MORE EASILY ACCEPTED ON OTHER CASES IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE EVIDENCE PERHAPS NOT AS CONCLUSIVE. IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE IN IRAN'S OWN INTEREST TO DISSOCIATE ITSELF IN PUBLIC MIND FROM SUCH OTHER CASES. HATEF REMARKED IN PASSING ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IRAN TODAY AND GREECE UNDER THE RECENT GOVERNMENT OF THE COLONELS; HE HAD VISITED LATTER AND FELT POLICE RULE IN THE AIR. IRANIANS TODAY DO NOT HAVE SUCH FEELING OF FEAR, HE SIAD.

5. HATEF WAS GIVEN COPY OF OTTAWAY DECEMBER 12 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON GROWING HUMAN RIGHTS LOBBY IN WASHINGTON AND IN EUROPE. DISCUSSION CONTINUED ON ADVANTAGES OF OPEN INFORMATION POLICY AND ON UTILITY OF GOI'S BEING AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE ON HUMAN RIGHTS INQUIRIES. EMBOFFS NOTED IRAN, AS SOVEREIGN STATE, OBVIOUSLY MIGHT FEEL UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION, AND IT IS UP TO GOI TO WEIGH POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF NOT DOING SO. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN PROMPT

EXPLANATIONS MIGHT DEFUSE CONCERN. EMBOFFS SUGGESTED STRESSING HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN IRAN AND SPECULATED PERSONALLY THAT STRONGER PRESENTATION OF IRAN'S CASE, ESPECIALLY BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL FIGURES, WOULD PROBABLY

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BE USEFUL IN IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING OF IRAN'S CIRCUMSTANCES. EMBOFFS AGREED GENERAL IMAGE PROBLEM MIGHT BE EXACERBATED AT TIMES BY ISSUES (SUCH AS OIL PRICE RISE) HAVING NOTHING DIRECTLY TO DO WITH HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT THAT EFFORTS TO MEET HUMAN RIGHTS CRITICISM ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS WOULD PROBABLY HELP GIVE BETTER PICTURE OF IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, PARTICULARLY IN CONTEXT TERRORIST THREATS. MEETING ENDED WITH HATEF INDICATING IT HAD BEEN VERY USEFUL TO HIM, AND HE EXPECTED TO COME BACK TO THE QUESTION AFTER HE HAS REPORTED TO HIS SUPERIORS.

6. COMMENT: IMPORTANCE OF MEETING LIES LESS IN WHAT WAS DISCUSSED THAN IN FACT IRANIANS IN MFA AT LEAST SEEM SERIOUSLY TO BE FOCUSING ON PROBLEM AND ON U.S. CONCERNS. HATEF SAID MEETING WAS AT UNDERSECRETARY ASSAR'S SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION. HATEF'S ASSISTANTS TOOK COPIOUS NOTES. DISCUSSION WILL CLEARLY BE REPORTED TO HIGHER LEVELS OF GOI. WE THINK THESE TALKS IN RELAXED, FORTHCOMING MANNER AND AT WORKING LEVEL ARE USEFUL BOTH FOR GETTING U.S. POINTS ACROSS IN NON-CONFRONTATIONAL SETTING AND FOR DEVELOPING MUTUAL BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. HATEF AND COLLEAGUES AT NO TIME ACCEPTED EVEN PARTIAL VALIDITY OF CHARGES AGAINST IRAN (NO FISHED VERY HARD FOR EMBOFF JUDGMENTS) BUT AT LEAST IMPLICITLY AGREED WITH EMBOFFS THAT MATTER REQUIRES BETTER IRANIAN HANDLING. HATEF PROBED WHAT FUTURE CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES AND PROCEDURES MIGHT BE IN APPLYING NEW LAWS. EMBOFFS STRESSED SEVERAL TIMES THAT LEGISLATION IS NEW, AND PROCEDURES STILL NOT WORKED OUT BEYOND STEPS OUTLINED IN FAA.

7. IN PROCESS OF DISCUSSING MUTUAL FALSE IMPRESSIONS, HATEF REFERRED TO CASE OF AN AIR FORCE MAN WHO WENT TO U.S. OR CANADA, DESERTED, AND IS NOW CLAIMING HE WOULD BE TORTURED OR KILLED IF HE RETURNED TO IRAN. THIS IS PATENTLY FALSE. SENSING SIMILARITY TO POSSIBLE CASE DISCUSSED STATE 280682 AND TEHRAN 11813, EMBOFFS ASKED FOR, AND HATEF AGREED TO PROVIDE, DETAILS OF CASE. WILL REPORT WHEN THESE PROVIDED.

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8. IN SEPARATE BUT RELATED MATTER ALSO INDICATING INCREASED

IRANIAN INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS, LOCAL ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND  
FARSI PRESS HAS OVER PAST WEEK ATTACKED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
FOR PARROTING SAME LINE AS FRENCH COMMUNIST JOURNAL HUMANITE  
ON SUBJECT OF IRANIAN STUDENTS ARRESTED IN PARIS FOR ATTACKS  
ON IRANIAN CONSULATE. DECEMBER 19 AYANDEGAN AND DECEMBER 20  
ETTELA'AT GO EVEN FURTHER, BUT WITH DIFFERENT THRUST,  
ATTACKING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL FOR BEING TOOL OF "INTERNATIONAL  
IMPERIALISM." THEY EVEN ALLEGE IT IS RECEIVING CIA BACKING  
AND CONTRIBUTIONS\* INFORMAL TRANSLATIONS PRINCIPAL ITEMS  
BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT (NEA/IRN).  
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## Message Attributes

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